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largely theoretical, and we doubt if the author's conclusions as to the reversion and causes of reversion can be proved, especially since the climate in Utah, where adult Siredons abound, is as dry as in Mexico.

In the fourth and last section of this part, while denying the existence of a "phyletic vital force," Weismann claims that while the processes and results of evolution are mechanical, and there is no *interference* of a directive teleological power in the processes of the universe, yet that in the beginning there was "an *appointment* of the forces producing them;" that the whole course of nature points back to a first Cause, a Creator; that mechanism and teleology do not exclude one another, but that there is a purpose in nature.

We take it that Weismann has been the first naturalist to show very plainly and simply, and by use of the inductive as well as deductive processes of thought, that teleology is not only possible but most probable. It seems to us he has afforded the clearest argument yet presented by an evolutionist for the existence of a First Cause. Hence materialism and teleology are opposite poles of the same truth. Weismann remarks: "I believe that I have shown that the theory of selection by no means leads—as is always assumed—to the denial of a teleological Universal Cause and to materialism, and I thereby hope that I have cleared the way for this doctrine, the importance of which it is scarcely possible to over estimate. Many, and not the most ill-informed, do not get so far as to make an unbiased examination in the facts, because they are at the outset alarmed by the to them inevitable consequence of the materialistic conception of the universe. Mechanism and teleology do not exclude one another, they are rather in mutual agreement. Without teleology there would be no mechanism, but only a confusion of crude forces; and without mechanism there would no teleology, for how could the latter otherwise effect its purpose?" Our author closes this admirable work with the following words: "The final and main result of this essay will thus be found in the attempted demonstration that the mechanical conception of nature very well admits of being united with a teleological conception of the universe."

MAYNARD'S MANUAL OF TAXIDERM^y.¹—The author of "The Naturalist's Guide" has, in this new venture, done a service to young ornithologists, and judging by the appreciation in which the present book is held by our son, a boy of eleven, who finds it to be a clear, intelligible and sufficiently brief description how to skin and stuff a bird, we have no doubt but that the book is what is required. Indeed the author has purposely avoided

¹ *Manual of Taxidermy*. A complete guide in collecting and preserving Birds and Mammals. By C. J. MAYNARD. Illustrated. Boston, S. E. Cassino & Co., 1883. 12mo, pp. 111.

lengthy instructions, but has rather sought to give a condensed statement of the results of an extended experience.

The book comprises instructions for collecting and skinning birds, making skins, mounting birds and making stands; also similar directions for collecting, skinning or preparing for the museum mammals as well as reptiles, batrachians and fishes.

The wood-cuts, though rude, are sufficiently well adapted for their purpose, and the book will be an indispensable guide to amateurs and useful even to experienced taxidermists.

SAUNDER'S INSECTS INJURIOUS TO FRUITS.¹—This is a well prepared and very useful compilation from the works of our economic entomologists, coupled with the results of the experience and observation of twenty years. The work is thoroughly well done, both as regards its simple, clear style, its freedom from technicalities, its abundant and well printed illustrations (but few being poor, though most of them are familiar) and the judicious directions for removing the pests. To the fruit-grower it will be a great boon. The book is so well calculated to meet his everyday wants, that the demand for it will be and should be ever increasing. In other words the book is destined to be the standard authority on this all-important branch of applied entomology.

Although the wood-cuts and source of information are acknowledged in the preface with every disposition to give full credit to the original authorities, yet we should prefer to see an occasional reference in the body of the work to the author from whom detailed statements are taken. The average fruit-raiser will not care, perhaps, to be troubled with such reference, still it is giving farther credit to an author who has worked laboriously upon the life-history and ravages of some insect, and lends additional authority to the author's statements. This is not said by way of criticism, for our genial friend, the author, has done himself very great credit in this work, and rendered excellent service to agriculture as well as to beginners in entomology.

MASON'S MINUTE STRUCTURE OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM OF CERTAIN REPTILES AND BATRACHIANS.²—This important work of Dr. J. J. Mason upon the minute structure of the central nervous system contains a magnificent series of plates, taken by the artotype process from negatives made by the author, illustrative of numerous reptiles and of the following batrachians: *Rana pipiens*, *R. hialecina*, *Menopoma allegheniense*, *Diemyctylus torosus*, and *Siren lacertina*. Twelve sections of the spinal cord of *Rana*, five of that of *Menopoma* and two of that of *Siren* are given. The substantia reticularis, a network of connective tissue peculiar to

¹ *Insects Injurious to Fruits*. By WILLIAM SAUNDERS. Illustrated with 440 wood-cuts. Philadelphia, 1883, J. B. Lippincott & Co. 12mo, pp. 436. \$3.00.

² *Minute Structure of the Central Nervous System of certain Reptiles and Batrachians of America*. Series A. By Dr. J. J. MASON. Newport, 1879-82.